Reconstruction

1. William A. Dunning (1970) – portrayed Reconstruction as a corrupt outrage on the South by the North.
2. Howard K. Beale – argued that it protected Northern business interests.
3. Dunning School (institution) – exploitation of the South by the North
4. W. E. B. Du Bois – argued that the Southern states had supported and helped Reconstruction
5. 1940s – Argued that the South did not have it too bad and the Radicals were not corrupt.
6. John Hope Franklin/Kenneth Stampp (1960s) – claimed that the war was to solve the problem of race in Reconstruction.
7. 1980s – Showed how far the former slaves did toward freedom, how large a role African Americans had in Reconstruction.
8. Leon Litwack (1979) – maintained that former slaves used the relative latitude to create their own independence from Southern society.

I agree with Franklin’s and Stampp’s claim that it was to solve the problem of race. During Reconstruction, several acts were made to re-unite the North and South yes, but there were major laws like the 14th and 15th Amendments that were focused on giving blacks almost the same benefits as other whites.